

THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating with electronic postcards comprising:

- a) providing a server for processing electronic postcards;
- b) selecting at least one input site remote from the server, wherein the at least one input site is at a travel location accessible to a plurality of senders of electronic postcards visiting the travel location;
- c) establishing a verified communication link between the at least one input site and the server;
- d) providing a sender input device at the at least one input site for receiving input information ~~from a sender, the request associated with each of the senders~~ including an addressee e-mail address;
- e) inputting ~~sender~~ for each sender the input information to the input device;
- f) generating an electronic postcard from the sender input information; and
- g) transmitting the electronic postcard from the at least one input site to the server and from the server directly to the addressee e-mail address.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 including performing said step a) by operating a web site from the server and wherein said step c) includes connecting the at least one input site to the server over the Internet.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 including performing said step b) by selecting one of a gift shop, a hotel front desk, a motel front desk and a theme park as said the at least one input site.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 including providing a form for recording the sender input information and performing said step e) utilizing the sender input information recorded on the form by the sender.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 including performing said step e) by the sender inputting the sender input information into the input device.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 including performing said step e) by the sender selecting a local scene from a plurality of local scenes stored in one of the at least one input device and the server.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1 including affixing a verified postmark to the electronic postcard, the verified postmark being uniquely associated with the at least one input site.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating with electronic postcards comprising:

- a) selecting at least one input site and storing a plurality of images related to the at least one input site, wherein the at least one input site is one of a gift shop, a hotel front desk, a motel front desk, and a theme park;
- b) providing a ~~user~~ an input device at the at least one input site for receiving a postcard request from a sender visiting the at least one input site, the request including a selection of at least one of the stored images, a message and an addressee address, wherein the input device includes one of a printed form and a computer terminal;
- c) generating an electronic postcard in response to the ~~user~~ request, the electronic postcard including the at least one stored image and the message;
- d) affixing a verified postmark to the electronic postcard, the verified postmark being uniquely associated with the at least one input site; and
- e) transmitting the electronic postcard directly to the addressee address.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The method according to claim 8 including performing said step b) by selecting a location that sells preprinted postcards as the at least one input site.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The method according to claim 8 including performing said step e) by transmitting the electronic postcard on the Internet.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 8 including providing the sender with a printed copy of the electronic postcard.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for generating printed postcards comprising:
- a) a server means located at a predetermined location;
 - b) at least one input device located at an input site at a travel location remote from said server means for receiving from a sender visiting the travel location a postcard request including an addressee address and at least one of a sender message and a selection of a scene related to a the travel location of said input site and not provided by the sender; and
 - c) a verified communications connection for selectively connecting said at least one input device to said server means, said at least one input device and said server means being responsive to said postcard request for transmitting an electronic postcard including a verified postmark from said server means directly to the addressee address, said electronic postcard including said at least one of a sender message and a scene related to a the travel location location of said input site; and
 - d) a payment device connected to said at least one input device for accepting at least one mode of payment from the sender.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said at least one input device includes means for inputting said message as a handwritten message of the sender.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said input site is a gift shop.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 14 including a plurality of images of scenes stored on at least one of said server means and said at least one input device and wherein said at least one input device permits selection of said scene related to a location of said input site from said plurality of images.

18. (New) The apparatus according to claim 14 wherein said payment device is at least one of a credit card reader, a coin and bill acceptor, a token acceptor, and a keypad for entering a payment code obtained from a separate payment device.

19. (New) The method according to Claim 1 including the step of providing a payment device adapted to accept one or more modes of payment from the sender.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19 wherein the payment device is at least one of a credit card reader, a coin and bill acceptor, a token acceptor, and a keypad for entering a payment code obtained from a separate payment device.

21. (New) The method according to Claim 8 including the step of providing a payment device adapted to accept one or more modes of payment from the sender.

22. (New) The method according to claim 21 wherein the payment device is at least one of a credit card reader, a coin and bill acceptor, a token acceptor, and a keypad for entering a payment code obtained from a separate payment device.